



Stockport School

January 2026

Dear Colleague,

I would like to thank you for your interest in the post of **Director of Food, Hospitality & Catering** at Stockport School.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and hardworking individual to join a successful school at an exciting time in its development. At Stockport School we are very proud of our broad and balanced curriculum offer and our community based inclusive ethos, which has over recent years, helped us to establish an excellent track record in terms of academic performance and achievement, placing us firmly, several times in recent years **within the top 10-15% of all schools nationally in terms of student progress and outcomes at GCSE.**

Stockport School continually seeks to instil a belief amongst our community in personal ambition, progress and achievement for all, aiming to be the best that we can be and outstanding in all areas. This is a challenge that we as a school, have evidentially risen to, with Ofsted recently judging the school as **'Better than Good'**, and stating in their findings that...

"Senior leaders, including governors, lead the school well." The school is "well-run and oversubscribed" and "leaders have high expectations of their pupils". "Leaders aim to provide a first-rate and all-round education. They want to set pupils up for life."

"Pupils' life chances have been significantly improved, especially those of disadvantaged pupils, as a result of the school's relentless focus on high standards and its dedicated moral purpose. The school's motto 'Velis et Remis' – meaning 'with sails and oars' – aptly characterises the school's collective passion and determination to achieve its goals."

"... pupils are provided with high quality learning opportunities, which they enjoy and relish." "Teachers have high expectations of every pupil. Pupils rise to the challenge as a result. The most able, in particular, are on track to make even better progress than in previous years across many subjects because teachers aim high."

"Pastoral care is second to none." and

"Pupils' behaviour in class and around the school is exemplary."

Ofsted

Stockport School has also achieved continued success and recognition at a national and international level, receiving several high-profile awards across a range of areas for best practice that recognise the exceptional work that we undertake to support our students and ensure successful outcomes for our learners.

In addition, we have recently been recognised nationally, as runner-up at the prestigious **Goldsmiths National Community Awards**, and Stockport School was also a Finalist in the prestigious Manchester Evening News, **'Secondary School of the Year Award'**, and was the proud outright Winner of the Manchester Evening News, **'School in the Community Award'**.

In my role as Headteacher, I have also recently received a congratulatory letter from the Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb MP, former Minister of State for School Standards, which thanked and congratulated Stockport School, for its work in **"continuing the drive towards high standards of educational achievement!"** The letter also confirmed that Stockport School's results show that it is now **"amongst the top state-funded schools in England"**.

As the Headteacher of Stockport School, I am delighted to have received these recent accolades which are a great recognition of the terrific dedication and commitment to learning that our staff and students apply, and the ongoing support and investment that we receive from parents and from our governing body. I believe the school's success has been brought about by our high expectation and our relentless determination to provide quality of opportunity and bring out the best in all people. **"The culture of Stockport School is that of aspiration and improving the life chances for its students."**



As a school we work hard to achieve positive outcomes and do so by having clear values and by investing in our community. We are also proud to be recognised as an **Investors in People organisation**, with IIP noting that the school is delivering continuous improvement and sustainable success, stating that:

“Across the whole school, from the senior leadership team through the managers to the staff, there was a culture of continuous improvement being driven”.

“It was clear during the assessment that Stockport School has invested considerable time and effort in ensuring a focus on future priorities. People across the organisation were vocal in confirming the school was an excellent place to work. This was further reinforced through the employee survey results”.

“Overall, people described the school as being a great place to work”.

Investors in People

If you are interested in becoming part of our team and helping us to continue our drive for further success then we would be pleased to hear from you.

Our new **Director of Food, Hospitality & Catering will be an inspirational, innovative, and ambitious leader of a dynamic and forward-thinking** subject area, capable of meeting the needs and aspirations of our students and of helping them to develop a vital set of practical and academic skills and experiences to support their future career ambitions.

We are looking for an individual who **is skilled at developing young people, recognising their potential, and engaging them in meaningful learning**. The successful candidate will be required to **create an exciting and adventurous curriculum that will enthuse our students to be creative**, with an ability to address the food, hospitality & catering opportunities and challenges presented in our world today.

You will need to be able to **demonstrate your ability to lead and inspire both students and colleagues and communicate your own extensive and confident specialist subject knowledge and technical skills with enthusiasm and a commitment to the highest of academic and pastoral standards**.

Currently, all students in Years 7-9 have opportunity to study Food & Nutrition by way of a rotation, and we are seeking through this appointment to greatly enhance our curriculum provision at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, to include continued access to the latest and most appropriate Level 1 and 2 qualifications, GCSEs, and other relevant courses as appropriate to the demands and needs of our ambitious students.

The successful applicant will be expected to help **lead and shape the vision of the department** so that it continues to adapt and develop in terms of an innovative curriculum offer, new enhanced facilities, and sustained high quality outcomes for students. Our new Director will be expected to help us invest in the further design and development of additional new equipment, resources and physical facilities, as appropriate and required, to support the high-quality delivery of our Food, Hospitality & Catering curriculum, and the wider Technology offer across the school.

Currently within the department, there is a large specialist Food room, equipped with new modern facilities and equipment. The department also has access to its own set of laptop computer facilities that can be used to support learning and other associated portfolio work at KS4. The new appointed Director will also **have line management and subject liaison responsibilities** with other specialist Teaching staff, and subject Technicians.

To be considered for this important post, you must be **passionate about teaching and must be committed to delivering high quality teaching and learning, while promoting outstanding progress for all students**. The right candidate for us will be someone who can demonstrate:

- ✓ Experience, knowledge and well-developed technical skills of teaching Food, Hospitality & Catering, and wider Design & Technology within a secondary school (ages 11-16).
- ✓ Dedication to the value and importance of Food, Hospitality & Catering, and wider Design & Technology, as a subject area, providing opportunity for all.



- ✓ Excellent curriculum knowledge and the ability to successfully sequence the skills, techniques, and knowledge needed.
- ✓ The ability to inspire, challenge, motivate and empower young people to achieve excellence.
- ✓ A record of / commitment to outstanding teaching and securing high levels of student progress.
- ✓ Experience of or a commitment to wider school responsibilities.
- ✓ Exceptional interpersonal and organisational skills together with an ambitious and dedicated professional approach.
- ✓ Qualified Teacher Status.
- ✓ An appreciation and an understanding of a school at the heart of the community.

Applicants are required to be **well-organised, inspirational teachers, who are passionate about their subject**. You will be able to work independently and in liaison with other colleagues in order to create and lead a high level of challenge for a range of learners in every lesson and support the on-going development of this department.

Teaching at Stockport School is a highly rewarding experience due to our strong team ethos and highly motivated students. Further information about the school can be obtained from our website www.stockportschool.net.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is **9.00am on Monday 2nd March 2026**, although the school reserves the right to close the deadline sooner dependent upon applications. Completed application forms should be marked for the attention of Mr I. R. Irwin, Headteacher, and either posted to the school address or e-mailed to Mrs J. Richards, Headteacher's PA at j.richards@stockport.stockport.sch.uk

I look forward to reading your application and wish you every success.

Yours sincerely



Mr I. R. Irwin
Headteacher

